

Message Text

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ORIGIN DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 R

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EA/ANP-MR. MOSER

EA/VN-L.PETERS

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P R 232117Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, VS

SUBJECT: BAN ME THUOT CAPTIVES

1- REUTERS REPORTS FROM SAIGON MAY 23 (ARTICLE BYLINED NEIL DAVIS) THAT AUSTRALIAN PETER WHITLOCK IS BEING HELD WITH A GROUP OF AMERICANS AND A CANADIAN COUPLE IN PLEIKU PROVINCE, SVN. THIS IS THE GROUP, MOSTLY MISSIONARIES AND ONE USAID OFFICIAL (PAUL STRUHARIK) CAPTURED MARCH 10 AT BAN ME THUOT. ONLY FIRM WORD ON THIS GROUP HAS BEEN REPORT IN EARLY APRIL THEY WERE BEING HELD IN A LARGE PRISON CAMP, WITH SOME 10,000 VIETNAMESE PRISONERS, IN PLEIKU PROVINCE, ABOUT TEN MILES FROM CAMBODIAN BORDER. WHITLOCK IS DESCRIBED IN REUTERS REPORT AS HAVING BEEN ON HOLIDAY AT BAN ME THUOT WHEN CAPTURED.

2. ARTICLE STATES: "IT IS BELIEVED THAT WORD HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN SAIGON FROM MR. WHITLOCK RECENTLY THAT HE WAS

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BEING DETAINED BY THE PRG ALONG WITH SEVERAL AMERICANS.

THE PROBLEM IN THE CASE OF MR. WHITLOCK IS POSSIBLY
SIMPLY ONE OF ADMINISTRATION. AS YET NO CENTRAL PRG GOVERN-
MENT AUTHORITY HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED, AND SVN IS CONTROLLED
BY A SERIES OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES WHOSE AUTHORITY
EXTENDS ONLY OVER THEIR DESIGNATED ZONE."

3. ALTHOUGH ARTICLE CONTAINS VIRTUALLY NO NEW INFO, IT IS
SIGNIFICANT IN THAT THIS IS FIRST REPORT FROM SAIGON SINCE
DEMISE OF GVN ON THIS GROUP OF PRISONERS, ABOUT WHOM
THERE IS WIDE PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN HERE.

4. WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HERE, WHO
ARE CHECKING WITH CANBERRA. REQUEST EMBASSY CHECK WITH
GOA FOR ANY INFO THEY MAY HAVE ON WHITLOCK AND THOSE HELD
WITH HIM. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, PRESS COMMENTS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PW FASIEVERTS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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Film Number: D750182-0455
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750522/aaaaatgl.tel
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Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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TAGS: CASC, PFOR, VS, AS, US, (WHITLOCK, PETER)
To: CANBERRA
Type: TE
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